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Senate-Loas Lead 480

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON AP - The Senate released a censored version of its June 7 secret session on Laos today, showing its members are barred on how to restrict funds spent in that Southeast Asian country by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The transcript, printed in the Congressional Record, indicated disagreement among the few senators who know the secret CIA budget figures as to how much the intelligence agency is spending in Laos.

At one point, Sen. Jack Miller, R-Iowa, subtracting the difference between money appropriated for economic and military aid to Laos and the amount actually spent concluded that about \$120 million more came from somewhere else for the operations in Laos.

"I think there is only one other place that could have come from, and that is from the CIA. Would that," he asked Sen. Stuart Symington, D-Mo., "be a proper deduction?"

"I think the senator's analysis could be constructive," Symington replied.

A report issued Monday by two staff members, which formed the basis for the June 7 secret session, indicated that CIA spending in Laos last year was somewhere between \$100 million and \$135 million.

But Sen. John C. Stennis, D-Miss., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and like Symington aware of the CIA budget which is hidden in other federal budgets, said "We do not have enough facts here to say whether there is any CIA money that was used in this matter."

Sen. J. W. Fulbright, D-Ark., attacked the use of CIA funds to finance some 4,800 Thai troops sent to Laos to bolster government forces, despite a congressional proviso enacted last year against use of outside troops in behalf of that government.

"We spent a lot of time on it and came up with a nullity and a farce," Fulbright said.

Sen. Robert P. Griffin, R-Mich., assistant Republican leader, defended the State Department position that the Thais are really volunteers and can be considered as local forces.

"I take it there has been no real contention with the fact that they were volunteers," Griffin said.

Fulbright promptly disagreed, noting that the Thais are recruited in Thailand and all costs are paid by the CIA. "I do not see how anyone can call them volunteers in the true sense of the word," he said.

At one point, Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., observed that "the presentation and the discussion has been very illuminating."

This was followed by this exchange:

"Mr. Cranston. Deleted."

"Mr. Symington. Deleted."

"Mr. Cranston. Deleted."

"Mr. Symington. Deleted."

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These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.